

MORE SCHOOL REFORMS.

A NEW SYSTEM FOR PROMOTING PUPILS.

DEFENDING THE PRESENT MANAGEMENT AGAINST HASTY CRITICISM—A NEW AUDITOR APPOINTED.

Superintendent Jasper yesterday called the attention of the Board of Education to the coming celebration in the city of the centennial of the inauguration of the first President of the United States. He suggested that some representation of the public schools in the celebration would be desirable. The matter was referred to the Committee on Teachers for consideration and report.

The Committee of Eight having under consideration reforms in the public schools submitted two reports. One of these was in relation to the memorial of the Public School Society presented to the Board a few weeks ago. The conclusions of the memorial, it stated, were not strictly accurate, and the report continues:

"It is true that the accommodations for the school children of the city of New York are insufficient. This has been conceded by everybody acquainted with the school system for a number of years, and no one regrets it more than those who are actively engaged in the schools, that the city cannot, and does not, provide ample accommodations; but we would state that during the last session of the City Government, through the aid of the Legislature, has shown a commendable desire to appropriate such an amount of funds to the use of the Board of Education as to enable the Board to build within the last two years a number of large and commodious buildings, in every respect model school buildings, and we have new plans in operation which in the immediate future will better meet the demands which the growth of the city, particularly in the upper portions, make upon the Board of Education for increased accommodations."

NEW BUILDINGS THE REMEDY.

There can be no remedy for this, except in the building of new school buildings. The building of new schools is now in active progress, and it is believed that within two years accessible and healthful accommodations will be provided for all school children throughout the city. It is true that in many of the old schools there are few grounds, and in some there are none, but the committee would state that in the new school buildings ample provision is made for healthful recreation, and the master of playgrounds has received careful consideration and protection from this Board. The suggestion on the part of the memorialists that the roofs of the school buildings might be made into playgrounds is seconded on account of the climatic reasons, and further to make playgrounds of the roofs would interfere with the usefulness of the buildings, calling for an expense which would hardly be warranted. The Board of Education might meet this evil of overcrowded classes and schools by bitterly complained of by methods effective but so radical as to hardly meet the approval of the citizens of New-York. We might refuse to receive students after the proper limit of average seating capacity, and its space had been reached. Do this we would be obliged to refuse admission to our schools to over 30,000 children.

The memorial is in error in taking the total enrollment of scholars as a basis for teachers assigned. Instead of the average number of pupils going eighty-seven to a teacher in the sixth grade the real figures show a lower average. We do not claim that our figures are a proper proportion of pupils to teachers, because the committee and possibly every member of the Board of Education will freely admit that in the case of our primary and grammar schools, the condition of affairs is much the same. But in our schools there are few grounds, and in some there are none, but the committee would state that in the new school buildings ample provision is made for healthful recreation, and the master of playgrounds has received careful consideration and protection from this Board. The suggestion on the part of the memorialists that the roofs of the school buildings might be made into playgrounds is seconded on account of the climatic reasons, and further to make playgrounds of the roofs would interfere with the usefulness of the buildings, calling for an expense which would hardly be warranted. The Board of Education might meet this evil of overcrowded classes and schools by bitterly complained of by methods effective but so radical as to hardly meet the approval of the citizens of New-York. We might refuse to receive students after the proper limit of average seating capacity, and its space had been reached. Do this we would be obliged to refuse admission to our schools to over 30,000 children.

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A SUIT AGAINST JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

John Freyheit, manufacturer and dealer in furs at Broadway and Prince-st., says that John Jacob Astor, who owns the building, damaged his stock by tearing down a portion of a wall and permitting the officials from a sewer to circulate among the goods. His suit for \$1,000 damages was brought to trial in the City Court before Judge Ehrlich and a jury yesterday. On account of a deviation in the bill of particulars furnished by the plaintiff and his evidence in relation to a date, the trial was stopped in order to give him an opportunity to fix the date with precision at a future time.

WILL FRANK LESLIE'S SON GO TO JAIL?

Judge Allen, of the Court of Common Pleas, yesterday signed an order committing Alfred A. Leslie to jail for contempt of court in failing to pay alimony and a counsel fee to Adas E. Leslie in her suit for a divorce.

BITS OF LEGAL NEWS.

Gustave Lehmann has begun a suit in the Supreme Court for a dissolution of his partnership with Thomas G. Jones in the jewelry business. He alleges that Jones has seized the property of the firm, and that the business has been suspended in consequence. The defendant says that he has only taken his share of the profits. Justice Lawrence, in the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, appointed Lehmann's lawyer, C. Conroy, receiver of the property.

Joseph Mandelbaum, through his father, Joe Joseph Mandelbaum, who was yesterday appointed by Justice Lawrence of the Supreme Court, her guardian ad litem, is about to sue Morris Frank for \$50,000, for alleged breach of promise of marriage under aggravated circumstances. He is seventeen years old.

Justice Lawrence, of the Supreme Court, has appointed William D. Page, guardian ad litem of Jeanette Friedman, in order that her rights be protected in the suit brought by her step-mother, Mary Friedman, against the executors of the husband of the latter, Leopold Friedman, to recover her estate.

WILLIAM D. PAGE APPOINTED.

The violation of law and of healthful conditions having been brought to the attention of the school officials by resolution of a member of this Board in June last, this has since been in a large measure remedied, so that as this time it appears, from the statement of our city superintendent, these are but trifling school-rooms now in this city where the excess of average attendance over seating capacity exists, and in no one of them is the excess more than three in any one room. This condition of affairs we hope can completely be remedied by reducing the attendance in those several class-rooms, so that there shall be no violation of the by-laws of the Board of Education or the common rules of health. It is true that the出售 of air space and the necessary reduction of size of room, as well as the creating the trustees of various wards and dividing their duties, would have demonstrated clearly that there is no confusion existing among the laws relative to schools.

These are evils existing; these evils have been frankly admitted and remedies are now being applied to eliminate them from our system. But the committee can not believe that the final recommendation of the memorialists, that we should join with them in a petition to the Legislature for the appointment of a committee empowered to investigate the operation of the school laws and recommended improvements in the school system, would be a fitting or becoming way to overcome the faulty methods which may have crept into the public schools.

This report was accepted and ordered printed.

The other report of the committee was in relation to the marking of children for promotion, for which a system of estimates is substituted.

The teachers will keep memoranda of their own relating to their pupils, but these are to be kept strictly for their own use. This report is:

These estimates may be based on the results of the experiments in marking the children, but the committee appre-

hends that in many cases, owing to the size of classes and other causes, it would be difficult to ascertain records on this basis alone. Provision is therefore made that such estimates may be based on private memoranda made each day by the teacher, but in no case to be made in the presence of the pupil.

In making these estimates the degree of merit is to be indicated by the attributes "parties," "improved" and "failure." As regards the examinations of the children for promotion from class to class, the committee proposes to go forward with the examination except in certain cases, and the laws creating the trustees of various wards and dividing their duties, would have demonstrated clearly that there is no confusion existing among the laws relative to schools.

TO SOLVE THE DIFFICULTY.

When the principal is in doubt as to the proficiency of a pupil, or in case a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with a pupil's non-promotion, such pupil's proficiency shall be determined by an examination in the prescribed manner.

Whenever a pupil is examined for promotion, the principal shall preserve a record of such examination, such record to consist of the questions given the pupil's work and the recorded estimate.

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